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In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-10.

Please add the following new claims 11-20.

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11. A drive unit for a safety belt tensioner having a drive coupled to a belt winding reel, the drive capable of being triggered, the drive unit comprising:

11 1 a drive chamber configured to contain the drive and including two connected plates extending parallel to one another;

11 2 wherein the drive chamber includes a drive band having at least one end fastened to a drive shaft;

11 3 wherein the drive chamber is adapted to be exposed from one side to an expanding gas coming from a gas generator on the response of an acceleration sensor so that the drive band unwinds and thereby drives the drive shaft;

11 4 wherein the surface of each plate that faces the other plate is coated with a coating material configured to reduce the amount of gas that escapes through an interface between the ends of the drive band and the facing plate surfaces.

12. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material has a plurality of layers.

13. The drive unit of claim 12, wherein the coating material has layers of different materials.

14. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the thickness of the coating material varies in different sections of the surfaces of the plate.

15. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material has one or more films.

16. The drive unit of claim 15, wherein the films for the coating of the plates are adhesive or are applied by means of an adhesive.

17. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the coating material is soft.

18. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein the drive band includes edges partly penetrating into the coating material.

19. The drive unit of claim 11, wherein a surface-near layer of the coating material is configured to be removed by the drive band and pile up in front of the drive band in the direction of expansion on the triggering of the drive and thus additionally reduces the gas exchange through an interface between the band and the plate surfaces.

20. A safety belt tensioner having a drive unit comprising:  
a drive chamber configured to contain the drive and including two connected plates extending parallel to one another;  
wherein the drive chamber includes a drive band having at least one end fastened to a drive shaft;  
wherein the drive chamber is adapted to be exposed from one side to an expanding gas coming from a gas generator on the response of an acceleration sensor so that the drive band unwinds and thereby drives the drive shaft;  
wherein the surface of each plate that faces the other plate is coated with a coating material configured to reduce the amount of gas that escapes through an interface between the ends of the drive band and the facing plate surfaces